

Leicester, Dec<sup>r</sup> 24, 1876.

Dear Mr. Webb;

In hunting over a lot of miscellaneous papers today, I found a newspaper slip having a letter of Capt. John Brown which I think I have never seen in any volume. It does not appear, I believe, in your book. I enclose it, tho' very likely you may have it. If so, or you do not care to retain it, you may send it back to me; but you are most welcome to keep it, if you w<sup>d</sup> like to do so.

In the same hunt, I came across the parcel of letters which you sent to me - do you remember? - in 1863, soon after the strange behaviour of M. D. Conway in addressing himself, as an organ of the Am<sup>n</sup>. Abolitionists, to James M. Mason! The parcel contains a letter of John Bright to you - a very neat & well expressed note indeed, in which he says Conway was influenced to do that "by a brace of poets whose knowledge of affairs is not great" (isn't that good? - the brace being, as I judge from a letter of Chopin's to you, also in the parcel, Browning & Tennyson!) The other letters are 2 from Maria

Martineau (in behalf of her Aunt) to you, and a copy of one from Harriet Martineau to Mrs. P. A. Taylor; <sup>also one from George Thompson</sup> Now, these letters are yours, in fact,

& you ~~may~~ <sup>may</sup> have ask<sup>d</sup> me to return them to you; - if so, I have entirely forgotten about it, & am very sorry that they got out of sight so long, though well used at the time. You have only to say you want them to have them again; but I must say I sh<sup>d</sup>. delight to be rightful owner of the J. Bright.

This day we rec<sup>d</sup>. a teleg. message from my son Edward, at San Francisco, dated Sat. 7 Dec. 2<sup>d</sup>, saying they arrived there the night previous, "safe and well", although, "thirty hours behind time". I had felt a good deal anxious about them, as they would inevitably encounter a great deal of snow & quite severe cold, - every day bringing us teleg. reports from Omaha, Cheyenne, Ogden & the like, of great depths of snow - from 3 to 6 feet in many places - deep cuts filled up, &c. and trains very much delayed. It is a vast relief to know they are well through - it is a mighty stretch of travel across this wide Continent, to be accomplished (as they ordinarily do it) in 7 days & nights - in very commodious & even luxurious cars too. Day after tomorrow (the 6<sup>th</sup>) they will embark for Honolulu in steamer "Moses Taylor". We hope they will find Richard during the few days they are in S. F. We have just run into mild weather & rain, after nearly a week of extraordinary cold weather for the time of year - mercury at zero (of Fahrenheit) 2 or 3 nights, & not rising to more than 22° above that at any time of day; with all, a gale blowing with intermission, & we had to drive our furnace hard, to keep warm enough.

Much love to Deborah

from us all.

Affly

Mr. Webb

J. M. May

(My father's birth day - 95.4 hrs)

